

Approaching the Grad Research Paper

1. The Structure

A. Introduction

- Engage the reader
- Use They Say/I Say to enter a conversation
- Say why the conversation is worth having
- Provide a map
- Stake your claim (thesis)

B. Body

- Guide the reader through the map
- Introduce, quote, cite, and explain evidence
- They Say/I Say remains your friend

C. Conclusion

- Gesture forward, not back
- Reinforce the significance of your paper

D. Bibliography

2. The Research Process

- Topic idea (and thesis) enables you to begin research
- Research enables, and often requires, narrowing or revision of topic
- Research also helps develop, narrow or revise thesis

3. The Writing Process

- First step is writer-based
- Next steps progressively more reader-based
- A draft/working thesis enables you to begin writing
- Writing enables, and often requires, revision of thesis
- Refined thesis enables you to organize the paper use sources effectively